

# Foau language

The **Foau language**, ***Abawiri***, also known as **Doa**, is a Lakes Plain language of Papua, Indonesia. Clouse tentatively included Abawiri and neighboring Taburta in an East Lakes Plain subgroup of the Lakes Plain family;<sup>[3]</sup> due to the minimal data that was available on the languages at that time.<sup>[4]</sup> With more data, the connection looks more secure.

Like other Lakes Plain languages, Abawiri is notable for being heavily tonal and for its lack of nasal consonants: there are no nasal or nasalized consonants or vowels, even allophonically.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Phonology

Abawiri consonants

|                | Labial    | Alveolar  | Alveolo-palatal | Velar     |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Voiceless stop |           | t tʷ <tw> |                 | k kʷ <kw> |
| Voiced stop    | b bʷ <bw> | d dʷ <dw> | ɕ <j> ɕʷ <jw>   | g gʷ <gw> |
| Fricative      | f fʷ <fw> | s sʷ <sw> |                 |           |
| Flap           |           | r <r>     |                 |           |

Abawiri vowels

|            | Front    | Back  |
|------------|----------|-------|
| Extra-high | ɨ <yi>   |       |
| High       | i y <yu> | u     |
| Mid        | ɛ <e>    |       |
| Low        | a        | ɒ <o> |

## References

1. Foau (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/flh/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Abawiri" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/foau1240>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Clouse, Duane (1997). "Toward a reconstruction and reclassification of the Lakes Plain languages of Irian Jaya". *Papers in Papuan Linguistics*. **2**: 133–236.

4. Voorhoeve, Clemens L. (1975). *Languages of Irian Jaya: checklist, preliminary classification, language maps, wordlists*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics Series B-31.

| Foau            |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Doa             |   |
| <i>Abawiri</i>  |   |
| Native to       | Indonesia   |
| Region          | Western New Guinea  |
| Native speakers | 350 (2010) <sup>[1]</sup>   |
| Language family | <div>Lakes Plain <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> East Lakes Plain<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Foau</b></li></ul></li></ul></div> |
| Language codes  |   |
| ISO 639-3       | flh   |
| Glottolog       | foau1240 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/foau1240">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/foau1240</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>     |

5. Yoder, Brendon. 2016. The Abawiri tone system in typological perspective. Paper presented at the 8th Austronesian and Papuan Languages and Linguistics Conference (APLL8), 13–14 May 2016. London: SOAS.
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